



February 5, 2008

House Tourism, Outdoor Recreation and Natural Resources
Committee
Lansing, Michigan

Re: HB 5607 – Use of electric motor on no-motor lakes

Dear Representatives,

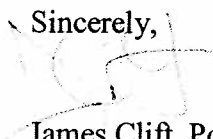
Michigan Environmental Council is certainly sympathetic to the difficulties people with disabilities face when they seek to recreate outdoors, and support efforts to make more of our parks and recreational areas accessible to people with disabilities.

However, we have two main concerns. First, there are very limited options for non-motorized recreational opportunities. In these areas, there are opportunities for bird and wildlife viewing not available elsewhere in Michigan. The presence of any motorized watercraft will reduce these opportunities. There are motorized lakes recreational opportunities in virtually all communities in Michigan.

Secondly, there are a growing number of new electric motors and boats becoming available on the market – many of these growing in size and power capability. The presence of these boats and motors then raise enforcement and access issues that stretch DNR resources.

Either minimizing the size of these motors or encouraging local governments to work with the DNR to find an administrative solution may be possible solutions.

Sincerely,


James Clift, Policy Director